

Help is needed all over the country. Go to your local courts and volunteer to serve. Create formal programs in your district to help the unfortunate. I know there are established programs in some parts of the country. Get involved in them. Give something back. That is the rallying cry.

Some have suggested programs to get lawyers and judges into the classrooms around the country. I have not been enamored of that idea. I do not believe you can pick someone out of his or her office or from the bench and say, here, teach, even if that individual has volunteered with enthusiasm to do so. Not everyone can be an effective teacher. It takes a good deal more than merely standing in front of a group and talking. Again, that is a separate subject for a talk, and I will not belabor it here.

But there is a lot out there that can be done. Legislative work is always timely. Keep in touch with your members of Congress. If you are not known, find someone in your firm, or roster of friends or clients who is. Include Representatives and Senators. If you have a string to the White House, use it and turn it into a rope. Plan in advance.

Share your expertise by writing sensible articles. The key word is sensible.

Participate in bar association functions. Be active. Volunteer to do work.

Get involved in pro bono work. You will get a lot of satisfaction in helping people.

In whatever form you wish to express yourself, remember, give something back.

HONORING SHIRLEY HELLER

HON. PETER DEUTSCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2001

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the lifetime achievements of one of South Florida's most active and charitable volunteers. Shirley Heller, who passed away on July 16, 2001 at the age of 72, was an inspiring leader who left a legacy of commitment and devotion for the South Florida community.

Shirley Heller grew up on the north side of Chicago. She attended the National College of Education and, after receiving her degree, became a teacher who was greatly loved and admired by her students. Her love for teaching led her to volunteer for the Great Books program in Chicago, which promotes classic pieces of literature.

Shirley's love of politics and public service also began during her time in Chicago, where her lifetime of activism can be traced back to the Truman years. Shirley would serve as a national delegate for the Democratic Convention, a duty she would fulfill twice more after moving to Florida. However, Shirley was best known for her dedication to her community. She was an active member of various women's groups, and had the honor of serving as the President of Hadassah for three consecutive terms. She also founded the local B'nai B'rith organization for girls in the greater Chicago area.

Shirley was an extremely giving person who always worked for others and not herself. Immediately after moving to Florida in 1979, Shirley became involved in numerous civic and community organizations. Residents at once recognized the value of her enthusiasm

for and commitment to her community; characteristics which made her a natural leader. She served as president of the Pembroke Pines Democratic Club, as well as president of the Hollybrook Golf and Tennis Condominium.

Mr. Speaker, Shirley Heller was both well-loved and widely respected by all those blessed to have known her, especially her husband and three sons, whom she cherished. She selflessly served her community throughout her life's work. Today, Mr. Speaker, we celebrate Shirley's life, which serves as a wonderful example to all who follow in her footsteps.

CELEBRATING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF ASTORIA CENTER OF ISRAEL

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2001

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in celebration of the 75th anniversary of The Astoria Center of Israel, one of the oldest and most venerable Conservative synagogues in my district.

Since its inception in 1926 the Astoria Center of Israel has been a bulwark of the Conservative Jewish community, as it provides a center for civic leadership, spiritual enrichment, and cultural relations.

Mr. Speaker, this congregation has always been a vibrant one.

In May of 1926, Financial, House, Membership, and Junior League committees had been established, a mere month after the building first opened its doors.

Those doors open into a sanctuary that is magnificent to behold even when the services have yet to commence. The beautiful canvasses of Mr. Louis Pierre Rigal, winner of the prestigious Grande Prix de Rome award in 1919, adorn the walls with glorious Biblical imagery.

Even today the synagogue continues to enrich the community's culture and spirit by offering plays, concerts, lectures, and civic meetings to any that wish to attend.

It would be impossible for me to separate the merits of this institution from those of its first spiritual leader, Rabbi Joshua Goldberg.

Rabbi Goldberg was the first Jewish chaplain of the United States Navy. When knowledge of the Holocaust became public, he, together with Rabbi Stephen Wise, was an active leader in the effort to save European Jews from Hitler's relentless persecution.

Rabbi Goldberg was stationed in Europe during World War II, and thus began his distinguished fifty-year-long career of Navy chaplaincy.

As a Rabbi, he reached out to other members of the clergy, both in local neighborhoods and throughout greater New York area. Rabbi Goldberg would often use radio broadcasts as a means of delivering his message of universal love and unity. Additionally, his efforts were integral to the formation of Queens College, my esteemed Alma Mater.

He made great contributions to the establishment of other Jewish communities such as Rego Park and Forest Hills.

Many prominent members of the Astoria Center for Israel continued to follow in Rabbi Goldberg's footsteps, such as Rabbi Alvin Class, the current chaplain of the New York Police Department.

I also must acknowledge the Center's many congregants that proudly pursue active careers in public service in both the governmental and private sectors.

It is my hope that we can fulfill the clause that concludes the Astoria Congregation of Israel synagogue charter—

"Behold how good and pleasant it is for brethren to dwell in unity"

RAILROAD RETIREMENT AND SURVIVORS' IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2001

HON. JIM NUSSLE

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2001

Mr. NUSSLE. Mr. Speaker, I commend the Chairman of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee for his effort to address the problem of the railroad retirement system's solvency and to improve the benefits of railroad retirees and their surviving spouses. The fundamental problem is that there is currently only one railroad worker for every three beneficiaries, and that ratio is only getting worse. I agree that steps need to be taken to ensure the long term solvency of the railroad retirement system.

However, I must share with my colleagues an important concern regarding this bill's potential impact on the federal budget. As Chairman of the House Budget Committee, I worked with the Committee Chairmen, House Leadership and the Administration to alleviate this same concern, which may have been incorrectly perceived as delaying its consideration on the floor.

This bill raises a technical question about how the government should treat the transfer of financial assets from the railroad retirement account to a new trust fund for the purchase of private securities. Under the existing rules for estimating the cost of legislation, the investment of railroad retirement funds in private securities is considered by the Congressional Budget Office and the Office of Management and Budget as an expenditure and would result in \$15.6 billion in new government spending in fiscal year 2002. This is because the funds would no longer be held or controlled by the U.S. Treasury.

There is another view held by many budget analysts that this transaction should simply be considered a means of financing the federal debt, and not as government spending. In other words, the investment of these assets would be considered a transfer of funds from one part of the federal government to another. Under this view, the investment of these bonds, which are currently in government securities, in private securities would have no net effect on the budget. I believe that this view is not unreasonable if the benefits of any return on investment accrue to a government-administered trust fund; that they are not used to finance new federal spending programs;